

Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of PN 1826, James B. Cunningham, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan; that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, there be no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that President Obama be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

James B. Cunningham, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career-Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume legislative session.

NOMINATIONS IN STATUS QUO

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as in executive session, if the Senate adjourns under S. Con. Res. 59, I ask unanimous consent that all the nominations received by the Senate during the 112th Congress, second session, remain in status quo, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXXI, paragraph 6, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, with the following exception: PN 1727.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMBASSADOR JAMES R. LILLEY AND CONGRESSMAN STEPHEN J. SOLARZ NORTH KOREA HUMAN RIGHTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 458.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill, (H.R. 4240) to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask that the bill be read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of this bill.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on passage of the bill.

The bill (H.R. 4240) was passed.

CORRECTING THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 4240

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Con. Res. 58, a concurrent resolution to correct the enrollment of H.R. 4240, submitted earlier today by Senator KERRY; that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Con. Res. 58) was agreed to, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 58

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That, in the enrollment of the bill (H.R. 4240) an Act to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following correction: in section 7, insert "is amended" before "by striking".

REAUTHORIZING CERTAIN VISA PROGRAMS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 3245 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative read as follows:

A bill (S. 3245) to permanently reauthorize the EB-5 Regional Center Program, the E-Verify Program, the Special Immigrant Non-minister Religious Worker Program, and the Conrad State 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Program.

Without objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, the Senate worked together to advance bipartisan legislation that Senator GRASSLEY and I introduced, and I thank all Senators for their support. I am very pleased that the Senate has agreed to pass this important legislation as it has been amended. I especially commend Senator GRASSLEY, Senator HATCH, Senator CONRAD, and Senator SCHUMER for their collaboration. And I thank Senator MENENDEZ for working with us to get this done in the Senate.

This legislation contains extensions for four long-standing immigration programs for another 3 years. These programs, last authorized in the fiscal year 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations law, are set to expire on September 30, 2012. Today's actions are a step toward avoiding that result, and maintaining the progress and benefits that these programs provide to many American communities and constituencies.

A program that I have long supported with Senators on both sides of aisle, the EB-5 Regional Center Program, has brought tens of thousands of jobs and billions in capital investment to com-

munities across the United States at no cost to the taxpayer. This program represents one small corner of our overall immigration system, yet it results in enormous benefits for so many communities, including Vermont, where our Governors across administrations and business leaders have put it to use to make Vermont a better place for its citizens. The economic transformation we have seen in some Vermont communities as the direct result of this program is profound. Over the last several years, Vermonters who might have been out of work in a struggling economy found themselves working to build up Vermont companies, building Vermont products, and supporting economic activity in their communities. And so today, business leaders and entrepreneurs in Vermont, along with Vermont's Governor Peter Shumlin and his economic development team will continue to have this tool to help raise the capital Vermont needs to continue its innovation and economic growth.

Job creation and capital investment in America is something I know we can all support, and today I am proud to say we have done just that. I want to give my thanks to the Association to Invest in the U.S.A., the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and all of the entrepreneurs and businesses large and small across the United States that have realized the economic benefits of this program and that have so strongly supported my efforts.

The bill we pass today also continues programs important to Senator HATCH and Senator CONRAD. Today we take a step toward carrying on Senator CONRAD's program to encourage foreign doctors trained in the United States to practice medicine in medically underserved rural areas. And today we move to continue Senator HATCH's program to give United States religious institutions the ability to invite foreign citizens of shared faith to their communities to carry out good works and to help others.

And this legislation reauthorizes the E-Verify work authorization program, which I know is very important to the Judiciary Committee's ranking member and other Senators. This program gives American employers a tool to ensure that those they hire are legally authorized to work in the United States. Yet it maintains its status as a voluntary program for employers, and maintains that choice for our businesses large and small to participate if they choose.

I regret that it has been such a long road for us to get to this point today. These measures should be the easy ones. The politics of immigration continue to make our progress difficult not only on the broader measures that America needs, but on the smaller ones that Congress has supported for many years. So I am pleased the Senate has